

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

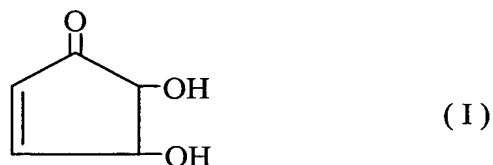
1-5 (cancelled)

6 (currently amended): A method for enhancing production of growth factor selected from the group consisting of

hepatocyte growth factor, nerve growth factor, epidermal growth factor, milk-derived growth factor, ~~fibroblast growth factor, brain derived fibroblast growth factor, acidic fibroblast growth factor, platelet derived growth factor, platelet basic protein, connective tissue activating peptide, and~~ insulin-like growth factor, colony stimulating factors, erythropoietin, thrombopoietin, T cell growth factor, ~~interleukin 2, interleukin 3, interleukin 4, interleukin 5, interleukin 7, interleukin 9, interleukin 11, interleukin 15, cartilage derived factor, cartilage derived growth factor, bone derived growth factor, skeletal growth factor, endothelial cell growth factor, endothelial cell derived growth factor, eye derived growth factor, testis derived growth factor, Sertoli cell derived growth factor, mammatropic factor, spinal cord derived growth factor, macrophage derived growth factor, recycled mesodermal growth factor, transforming growth factor- α ,~~

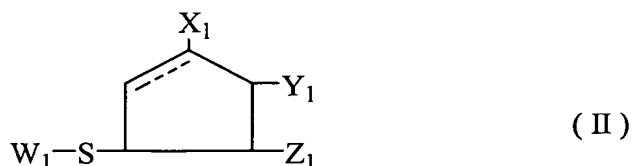
~~transforming growth factor β , heparin binding EGF like growth factor, amphiregulin, SDCF, betacellulin, epiregulin, neuregulins 1, 2 and 3, vascular endothelial growth factor, neurotrophin, BDNF, NT 3, NT 4, NT 5, NT 6, NT 7, glial cell line derived neurotrophic factor, stem cell factor, midkine, pleiotrophin, ephrin, angiopoietin, activin, tumor necrosis factor and interferons,~~ the method comprising

administering a composition containing, as an active ingredient, a compound selected from the group consisting of 4,5-dihydroxy-2-cyclopenten-1-one of formula (I):



4-hydroxy-2-cyclopenten-1-one;

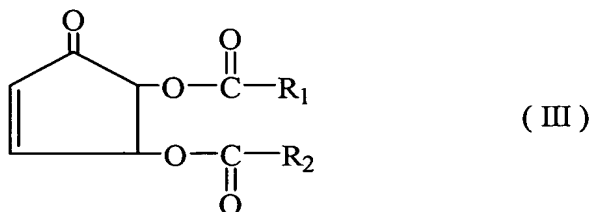
a compound of formula (II):



wherein a bond in the five-membered ring represented by a broken line means that the five-membered ring may be either a cyclopentene ring having a double bond or a saturated cyclopentane ring; in the case of a cyclopentene ring, X_1 is OH, Y_1 is =O and Z_1 is H; on the other hand, in the case of a

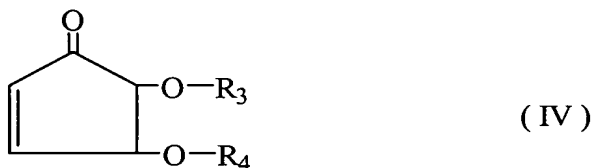
cyclopentane ring, X_1 is =O, Y_1 is OH and Z_1 is OH; W_1 is a residue in which a SH group is removed from cysteine or a peptide containing cysteine;

a compound of formula (III):



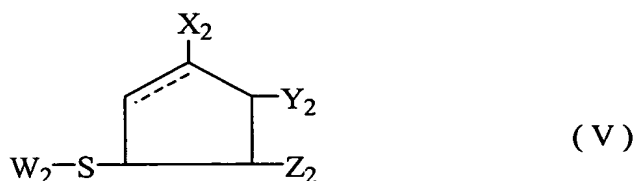
wherein R_1 and R_2 may be the same or different from each other, and are hydrogen, or an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group;

a compound of formula (IV):



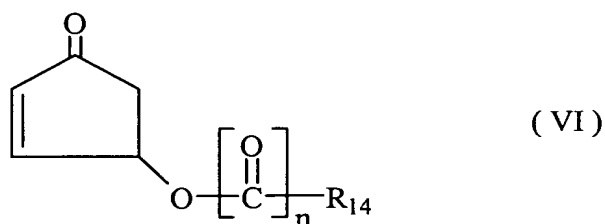
wherein R_3 and R_4 may be the same or different from each other, and are hydrogen, or an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group, provided that R_3 and R_4 are not simultaneously H;

a compound of formula (V)



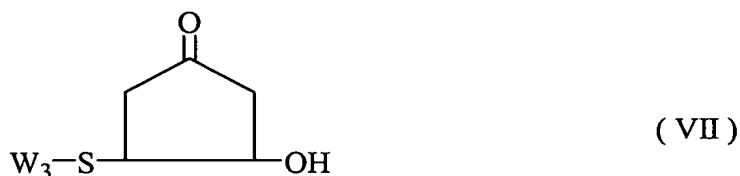
wherein a bond in the five-membered ring represented by a broken line means that the five-membered ring may be either a cyclopentene ring having a double bond or a saturated cyclopentane ring; in the case of a cyclopentene ring, X_2 is OR_5 , Y_2 is $=O$ and Z_2 is H ; on the other hand, in the case of a cyclopentane ring, X_2 is $=O$, Y_2 is OR_6 and Z_2 is OR_7 ; R_5 is R_8 or $-(CO)-R_9$; R_6 is H , R_{10} or $-(CO)-R_{11}$; and R_8 is H , R_{12} or $-(CO)-R_{13}$ (wherein R_8 , R_9 , R_{10} , R_{11} , R_{12} and R_{13} may be the same or different from each other, and are an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group, and R_9 , R_{11} and R_{13} may be H), provided that R_6 and R_7 are not simultaneously H ; W_2 is a residue in which a SH group is removed from a cysteine or a peptide containing cysteine;

a compound of formula (VI):



wherein R_{14} is an aliphatic, aromatic or aromatic aliphatic group, and n is 0 or 1, provided that if n is 0, R_{14} is not H ;

a compound of formula (VII):



wherein W_3 is a residue in which a SH group is removed from cysteine or a peptide containing cysteine;

4-(9-adeninyl)-2-cyclopenten-1-one; and

4-(9-guaninyl)-2-cyclopenten-1-one,

to a person who is suffering from a condition selected from the group consisting of hepatitis, cirrhosis, cholestasis in liver, chronic nephritis, wound, senile dementia, Alzheimer's disease, peripheral neuropathy, a cerebrovascular disease, apex of brain, a degenerative disease associated with head injury, anesthetic intoxication, growth impairment, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, osteoporosis, and renal insufficiency,

_____ wherein the amount of said active ingredient is above 10 $\mu\text{g/kg/day}$ and less than 200 mg/kg/day .

7 (canceled).

8 (previously presented): The method according to claim 6, wherein the composition is a food or a drink.